

Region 7 Weekly Activity Report

February 17, 2021

Hot Topics:

R7 Hosts Plastic Recycling Commodities Virtual Workshop February 11, 2021 to include the Economic Improvement and Energy Resources Authority, MidAmerica Regional Council, Missouri Recycling Association, State of Missouri Recycling-Office of Procurement

Key Message: R7 created a series of virtual workshops with our partners

- Plastic manufacturers learn their challenges to using recycled post-consumer plastics.
- Where to invest resources to increase recycled content use.
- Learning economic development incentives and resources to create demand for recycled materials
- Future workshops will focus on procurement and creating demand for recycled plastics.

R7 Issues Public Fact Sheet: SEMD - Viburnum Trend Lead Haul Roads OU 2

Key Message: R7 will issue a fact sheet to notify the public a time-critical removal at the Viburnum Trend Lead Haul Roads Superfund Site for residential properties and child high-use areas

Description:

- R7 will notify the public about a time-critical removal at the Viburnum Trend Lead Haul Roads Superfund Site for residential properties and child high-use areas where: (1) lead concentrations in soils exceeded 1,200 parts per million (ppm) or (2) lead concentrations in soils were less than 1,200 ppm but greater than 400 ppm and a sensitive population (e.g. child under the age of 6) is present.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

- Sampling of residential yards will continue until the EPA's investigation is complete.
- The EPA will update the local community when additional information becomes available.

R7 Announces First Trash Trap Project to Capture and Assess Aquatic Trash in St. Louis

Key Message: R7 will issue a press release to announce the first trash trap project in St. Louis.

Description:

- R7's Trash-Free Waters program, along with Wichita State University's Environmental Finance Center and the Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper, are working with local community groups to install and maintain three trash traps in the St. Louis area.
- A trash trap is composed of a floating boom and net that attaches to embankments, canals, or stormwater outfalls and gathers floating debris before it reaches the primary stream, river, lake or ocean.
- This project is the result of a \$35,000 grant to the WSU EFC to capture and study the types, quantities and sources of trash at the three trap locations.
- The data collected by the EFC will provide a foundation for learning the characteristics of trash entering St. Louis streams to recommend further litter reduction actions that can be replicated in other parts of the city, state, and throughout communities in R7.

R7 Emergency Response at the AltEn ethanol facility in Mead, Nebraska on February 13, 2021.

Key Message: R7 responded to a release of potentially pesticide-contaminated material at the AltEn ethanol production plant in Mead, Nebraska.

- The AltEn facility uses a combination of manure and stillage to generate methane gas as a fuel source for ethanol production. The AltEn facility utilizes waste seed corn, which is coated with pesticides, for their ethanol production. Stillage is generated from the fermentation of seed corn and is likely impacted by pesticides. The stillage is combined with manure in two 4-million-gallon digester tanks.
- The spill was reported early on February 12, 2021, and R7 received a Request for Federal Assistance from the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy Director late that evening.
- On February 13, 2021, R7 deployed an On-Scene Coordinator to the scene who confirmed the material flowed 4.3 miles from the facility property, stopping prior to reaching the Platte River. The EPA collected several samples from the extent of the spill to determine if pesticides were present.
- The migration path is through the existing former Nebraska Ordnance Plant Federal Facility Site. No impacts associated with the groundwater contamination at the federal facility site are expected.
- AltEn established a dam and collection point, beyond the known extent of the release, to prevent any further migration and to allow for collection of spilled materials. They also insulated the second digester to prevent a similar rupture.
- Oversight of long-term cleanup will be conducted by the NDEE.

R7 Module 3-Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan Training Workshop February 16 to 18, 2021

Key Message: On February 16 -18, 2021 from 1:00 -2:30 pm each day, R7 is hosting a virtual workshop for community (drinking) water systems to learn and understand the requirements to complete risk and resilience assessments and update emergency response plans.

- America's Water Infrastructure Act requires community (drinking) water systems serving more than 3,300 people to develop or update risk and resilience assessments and emergency response plans.
- June 30, 2021 is the deadline for those systems serving 3,301 to 49,999 people.
- All R7 systems serving 50,000 people or greater have met the assessment certification deadlines.
- More information can be found at [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-09/documents/ta_primer_18sep19.pdf" \h] [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-09/documents/ta_primer_18sep19.pdf" \h]